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LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1982 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On express instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following communiqués issued by the Joint General Staff of the Argentine Armed Forces:

Communiqué No. 146 of 10 June 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that today, 10 June 1982, the following combat activities took place in the Malvinas area:

1. Enemy aircraft attacked our positions at 1000 and 1630; they were repulsed without casualties or material damage.
2. There was activity by enemy helicopters in the Mount Kent area.
3. Enemy emplacements were subjected to air attacks, the results of which have not been evaluated.
4. There was little activity by enemy artillery during the day.
5. An Argentine army patrol engaged an enemy unit; the ensuing confrontation must have produced at least three casualties among British troops, which withdrew rapidly and in disorder.
6. One of our patrols engaged a British observation post, causing one enemy casualty and taking one prisoner. They also captured communications and other equipment, etc.
7. Our artillery subjected the sector west of the British position to intensive bombardment.
8. At 1700 hours, the hospital ship Bahía Paraíso entered Puerto Argentino with Red Cross representatives, who are to confer with General Menéndez and inspect the hospitals."

Communiqué No. 147 of 11 June 1982:

"The Joint General Staff announces that on Sunday next, 13 June 1982, at 0900 hours, the British hospital ship Herald, with 60 British wounded aboard, will arrive at the port of Montevideo, Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

"After disembarking, they will be transferred by air to London, England, it not yet being known the date and actual time when this will be carried out."

Communiqué No. 148 of 11 June 1982:

"The Joint General Staff has observed that many conflicting reports have been provided by international news agencies and United Kingdom Government officials concerning the results of the combat actions on 8 June 1982 in the area of Bahía Agradable. On the basis of this, it has studied the psychological motivation of the enemy in the conviction that the latter is merely attempting to confound international public opinion by keeping from it an objective account of the facts.

"The study and the conclusions show that:

1. In the past 72 hours, spokesmen of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence have reported that the Argentine Air Force has suffered the loss of from 4 to 12 aircraft, whereas in actual fact 2 Argentine aircraft failed to return.

In referring to ships and personnel, British reporting minimizes the damage and casualties suffered, although events oblige those reporting to subsequently describe what has happened as a disaster.

Reports that the attack sustained, despite the magnitude of the losses, had not affected the British offensive capacity were later belied in the notes of British correspondents present at the action.

2. What is stated in the previous paragraph unmistakably demonstrates the lack of objectivity and reliability of information supplied by the British authorities, since it is impossible to continue to disguise that the attempt to land in Bahía Agradable resulted in serious human and material losses for the British forces.

"The Joint General Staff considers that, allowing for the logical reserve which every military operation calls for, there must be, in preparing and disseminating information, profound respect for the receiver of that information. This is not apparent in the conduct of the United Kingdom Government and British press, which not only distort and conceal information but are primarily intent on denying casualties and material losses, and at times issue reports that are ridiculous and incredible in the light of the facts."

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The military actions of the Argentine Armed Forces described earlier have been carried out by the Argentine people and Government in exercise of the right of self-defence provided for in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Arnold M. LISTRE
Ambassador
